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A field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending June 8, 2003

Poor week for Field Work: There was only 1 day suitable for field work. Soil Moisture was rated as 19 percent adequate and 81 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included planting corn, soybeans, and potatoes; cutting hay if possible; maintaining machines; caring for livestock; spreading manure; spraying herbicides and pesticides; fixing fences and waiting for sunshine.

FIELD: For the fourth week in a row, there were limited days that farmers could get in the fields and do any work. Farmers reported that the continuing rain and below average temperatures were beginning to effect crop condition and continued to hamper planting. Spring plowing stayed the same at 89 percent complete, 6 percent behind 2002 and 9 percent behind the five-year average. Because of the weather, corn planting remained at 74 percent complete, 14 percent behind 2002 and 19 percent behind the five-year average. The percent of corn that has emerged reached 58 percent, 16 and 27 percent behind 2002 and the five-year average, respectively. Corn height averaged 4 inches. Corn condition was rated as 1 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 42 percent good and 16 percent excellent. Soybean planting increased significantly advancing to 51 percent complete, 21 percent behind last year and 16 percent behind the five-year average. Percent of soybeans emerged advanced to 29 percent complete, 23 and 30 percent behind 2002 and the five-year average, respectively. Soybean condition was rated as 2 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 39 percent good and 20 percent excellent. The percent of oats emerged advanced to 97 percent, 6 percent ahead of 2002 and 2 percent ahead of the five-year average. Oat condition was rated as 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 51 percent good and 13 percent excellent. Percent of winter wheat headed stayed at 75 percent, 22 percent behind 2002 and 20 percent behind the five-year average. Two percent of wheat was rated as poor, 15 percent was fair, 57 percent was good and 26 percent was excellent. Percent of barley headed advanced very little to 92 percent, 5 percent behind last year and the five-year average. Tobacco transplanted has jumped to 18 percent, 51 percent behind 2002 and 54 percent behind the five-year average. With continued rain, the hay condition declined this week. Alfalfa stand was rated as 2 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 54 percent good and 27 percent excellent. Timothy clover stand was rated as 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 59 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Thirty-four percent of the first alfalfa cutting was completed and 12 percent of the first timothy clover cutting was completed both increasing slightly from last week. The quality of hay made was rated 7 percent very poor, 32 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 22 percent good and 5 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: The rain still continued to fall most of the week which has the pasture conditions starting to decline slightly. One percent of the pasture land was rated very poor, 3 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 51 percent good and 24 percent excellent.

Fruit & Vegetable: Weather conditions still seem to be good for fruit tree growth. Peach tree conditions were rated 2 percent fair, 94 percent good and 4 percent excellent. Apple tree conditions were rated 1 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 66 percent good and 10 percent excellent. Potatoes planted stayed at 86 percent, 10 percent below last year and 9 percent behind the five-year average.

U.S. As Of June 1, 2003: Highlights: Warm weather continued in the Pacific Northwest and benefited crop development. Diminishing soil moisture reserves began to stress crops in some areas, but scattered showers provided relief. Above-normal temperatures and dry weather continued in California's Central Valley, favoring fieldwork and crop development, particularly for rice and cotton progress. Subsoil moisture conditions remained very dry in the central and northern Rockies and generated increased irrigation demands as minimal rainfall was recorded. Hot, dry weather boosted irrigation demands in the Southwest as dry conditions prevailed in a band from southern California to Texas and Oklahoma and through southern Louisiana, despite scattered showers across the western Gulf Coast. Temperatures on the southern Great Plains reached as high as 100 degrees F and depleted topsoil moisture. Soil moisture levels were mostly adequate on the central Great Plains. Scattered showers and warm temperatures favored winter wheat development and crop emergence. Crop emergence made good progress in the northern Great Plains as warm, dry weather encouraged development. Mild, dry weather in the Corn Belt spurred winter wheat development and crop emergence and allowed growers to accelerate planting of soybeans and corn, particularly in Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. However, wet soils and cool conditions slowed fieldwork and crop development in parts of the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley regions. Fieldwork was slightly hampered by continued wet conditions across a wide swath of the interior South, from the northern Delta to the Tennessee Valley. However, fieldwork was again significantly affected by persistent rainfall along the Atlantic Coastal Plains. Soil moisture was mostly adequate in Florida with heavy rainfall reported in many areas. Fieldwork increased but wet conditions persisted in the Northeast. Corn: Planting was 95 percent complete, 3 percentage points ahead of last year's pace but 1 point behind the 5-year average. The crop was 81 percent emerged, 9 points ahead of last year but 4 points behind the 5-year average. With continued wet conditions, Pennsylvania remained 14 points behind normal. Soybeans: Planting was 74 percent complete, 7 percentage points ahead of last year's pace but 3 points behind normal for this date. The crop was 38 percent emerged, 2 points ahead of last year but 15 points behind the 5-year average. Winter Wheat: Eighty-four percent of the Nation's winter wheat was headed, 2 percentage points ahead of last year's pace but equal to the 5-year average. The barley crop was 98 percent seeded, compared with last year's 97 percent and the 5-year average of 95 percent. The crop was 87 percent emerged, 11 percentage points ahead of last year and 6 points ahead of the 5-year average. The oat crop was 98 percent seeded and 92 percent emerged. Planting was equal to last year's pace and emergence was 9 percentage points ahead of last year's conditions.

Weather Data For Week Ending June 8, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 03 - June 8, 03					GDD
	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION			PRECIPITATION		GDD BASE 50F		BASE 40F	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	TOT
NORTHWEST												
Erie	71	42	59	-6	0.35	2	7.39	-0.36	26	347	-34	858
Franklin_AG	74	37	56	-8	0.82	5	9.88	+1.39	43	326	-45	883
Meadville	73	40	56	-6	0.26	5	9.27	+0.99	30	314	-12	859
Mercer	72	29	55	-9	0.44	4	8.94	+0.61	27	269	-111	801
Springboro	74	35	55	-10	0.24	5	8.93	+1.59	36	274	-122	780
Warren	74	40	57	-7	0.53	5	8.38	-0.40	34	296	-60	822
NORTH CENTRAL												
Bradford_Region	70	36	54	-6	0.61	5	9.06	+0.33	37	238	+5	719
Emporium	75	35	56	-5	0.92	4	8.86	-0.16	40	334	+65	894
Kane	69	27	50	-9	0.51	5	9.33	+0.33	33	99	-128	492
Laporte	69	39	53	-10	1.02	5	8.93	+0.43	39	223	-153	704
Lock_Haven	76	38	57	-7	1.22	5	8.37	+0.35	40	413	-6	994
Port_Allegany	73	31	54	-7	0.72	4	7.05	-1.20	30	218	-66	700
Renovo	78	38	57	-7	1.06	5	9.11	+1.09	41	384	-35	960
Ridgway	73	33	54	-6	0.81	4	8.28	-0.74	33	230	-39	752
Stevenson_Dam	76	37	56	-5	1.42	5	10.39	+1.37	43	316	+47	874
Towanda	73	38	56	-7	1.27	6	9.23	+1.90	44	276	-111	801
Wellsboro	74	37	54	-5	1.06	6	8.67	+1.93	35	221	-19	703
Williamsport_AP	75	43	59	-7	0.93	6	8.06	-0.15	39	442	-55	1023
NORTHEAST												
Hawley	73	39	55	-6	1.10	4	8.01	-0.43	30	216	-75	740
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	72	38	57	-9	1.32	5	8.47	+0.81	36	402	-47	956
Susquehanna	75	39	57	-4	1.05	5	8.98	+0.24	31	335	+66	867
WEST CENTRAL												
Butler	75	36	57	-7	0.91	5	8.93	+0.49	38	408	+3	997
New_Castle	78	37	58	-6	0.40	4	9.56	+1.99	31	435	+33	1031
Slippery_Rock	76	37	57	-6	0.50	5	10.22	+2.19	33	416	+56	1004
CENTRAL												
Altoona/Blair_C	71	40	56	-9	3.10	7	10.43	+2.57	48	398	-68	959
Du_Bois	71	36	55	-9	1.18	5	9.69	+1.05	39	337	-34	876
Lewistown	76	43	59	-8	2.41	4	9.96	+1.78	38	471	-60	1062
Middletown	73	49	60	-9	2.38	5	10.67	+2.09	38	503	-106	1099
Prince_Gallitzi	74	37	56	-7	1.56	4	9.94	-0.18	36	341	+11	874
Selinsgrove	73	43	57	-9	1.01	4	7.72	-0.55	40	377	-87	952
State_College_P	76	44	57	-8	1.79	5	9.18	+1.60	42	423	-26	997
EAST CENTRAL												
Allentown-Bethl	75	43	59	-8	1.33	6	7.04	-1.72	39	430	-104	1008
Lehighton	72	41	59	-8	2.09	6	9.68	+0.97	41	348	-160	905
Matamoras	74	38	56	-9	2.57	6	9.02	-0.25	35	248	-187	769
Tobyhanna	74	42	58	-2	1.82	6	11.34	+1.61	37	371	+138	929
SOUTHWEST												
Pittsburgh/Alle	74	40	60	-5	1.87	4	10.28	+1.81	39	589	+119	1211
Derry	75	39	58	-7	1.82	4	11.13	+2.83	38	450	+32	1025
Meyersdale	73	31	54	-11	2.79	4	13.83	+4.54	41	240	-165	755
Mount_Pleasant	74	35	58	-5	2.90	5	11.54	+2.01	41	452	+104	1046
Pittsburgh_Intl	75	39	60	-7	1.16	4	9.76	+2.06	38	574	+69	1191
Rector	78	33	58	-5	2.96	4	12.00	+2.47	35	452	+104	1039
Waynesburg	76	36	57	-8	2.72	5	12.94	+4.49	39	487	+42	1096
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Biglerville	74	43	58	-11	3.68	5	14.29	+6.21	46	459	-148	1053
Everett	75	40	58	-8	2.69	4	13.73	+5.90	45	385	-59	964
Hanover	72	40	58	-10	3.32	5	11.88	+3.80	37	467	-140	1059
Shippensburg	77	44	60	-9	4.16	5	13.46	+5.62	38	507	-113	1108
South_Mountain	70	39	55	-10	4.48	5	16.78	+8.92	42	323	-136	861
York_AP	73	42	59	-10	2.76	5	10.61	+2.18	40	482	-135	1074
SOUTHEAST												
Green_Lane	80	44	60	-7	3.50	5	11.96	+3.36	37	471	-26	1065
Hamburg	72	46	58	-7	2.33	5	9.54	-0.50	37	422	+0	1000
Hopewell	71	40	57	-13	3.96	4	10.81	+1.95	35	375	-269	937
Lancaster_AP	72	43	59	-9	2.88	5	9.94	+1.60	35	432	-105	1019
Neshaminy_Falls	76	46	60	-8	2.96	4	10.13	+0.61	35	440	-90	1023
New_Holland	71	45	58	-10	3.86	5	10.78	+2.44	36	421	-116	1002
Philadelphia	76	53	63	-7	2.91	4	10.09	+1.76	31	615	-48	1230
Philadelphia_NE	75	49	61	-8	2.56	4	10.53	+2.20	33	513	-150	1110
Reading_AP	73	43	59	-8	2.37	5	8.83	-0.58	37	470	-42	1052
Valley_Forge_Na	74	45	58	-12	2.97	5	10.76	+1.90	33	372	-272	943
Willow_Grove	72	48	60	-8	2.73	5	6.45	-3.07	30	465	-65	1047

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) and Pan Evap in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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INTERNET REPORTERS' COMMENTS, By County:

*Reporters are from Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service,
Farm Service Agency, farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

"Wet, dry, wet pattern has frustrated farmers in the county. Most of the corn has been planted and emerging but chopping first cutting has been challenging. Heavy rain on Sunday added to the frustration.

- Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

Fields are wet. I heard that one early planted corn field was being replanted to cabbage due to poor germination.

- Wes Ramsey, Warren County

Wet the first part of the week, then some sun then more rain. Hay is going backwards while the corn did like the humid weather and starting to show signs of actual growth although the leaves appear quite yellow. Rain has washed fertilizer and herbicide sprays down below the planting zone. May need to respray some acres and hope corn roots reach down to the fertilizer. Roots like the top moisture where most fertilizer has disappeared.

- Pamela Barnes, Tioga County

The rain will not quit. We received an average of 3.75" of rain on June 1 and have not had a sunny day since. If this continues another week the impact will be significant.

- John Esslinger, Lackawanna County

Another cloudy wet week. Someone please turn the faucet off for a little while. Lots of machinery being repaired and a lot of rainy day jobs being accomplished. One area farmer commented if the sun doesn't shine soon my wife will have me doing the dishes.

- Willie Keeney, Susquehanna County

Again, it rained all week but 1.5 days. Getting the crops planted is a major concern in the area. By the time it starts to dry up it rains again. Very little planting is getting done. Another concern is getting the hay made. The hay is ready, but there is never enough drying days.

- Dolly Little, Cambria County

We added 2" of rain fall in my gauge during the week. Most soil conditions too wet for field work. We need some sunshine.

- Dick Decker, Centre County

Three inches of rain this week and they want another 2 inches today. It is so wet nothing can be done around here. Anybody that had corn planted lost it and it will soon be too late to replant it. Would like to at least chop hay but fields are so wet you could never get a tractor in them.

- M.K., Huntington County

Barley is lodging from wet weather. Most other field activities are at a stand still due to 2+ inches of rain.

- Greg Hostetter, Juniata County

Cool wet weather is starting to impact the strawberry crop.

- Dave Stetler, Juniata county

Extreme wet conditions hampering all farm operations. Plowing, crop planting and hay harvest very far behind schedule. Rain, cool temperatures and cloudy conditions every day.

- Tom Sierzega, Washington County

Most of the county received more than 3 inches of rain this week making most fields too wet to enter. Some forage was harvested as silage from a few of the better drained soils. Still about 1/3 of the corn remains to be planted. No dry hay of any quality has been harvested yet this season. Some areas almost had frost early in the week. All crops in need of some drier conditions and warmer temperatures.

- John Lohr, Westmoreland County

How can it keep raining like this?

- Ann Meyer, Fulton County

The one day fit to do field work was Monday afternoon and Saturday afternoon, and it was "asking a lot" to call either of them much more than marginal.

- Russ McLucas, Fulton County

Sixty in the headed column must be a typo on my part, none of my wheat has headed yet.....I will be more careful in the future. We have not laid down any hay yet because we make nothing but dry hay. The bugs are in the alfalfa hay, and it is going mature and laying down.....so the quality is going to be stemmy and too mature to get good prices. The timothy hay is once again not heading all together, so we will have mixed maturity when we go to cut. The quality looks good if we can get it in a timely manner. Orchard grass hay is really looking great, once again it will depend on if we can harvest it before it gets to mature. Give us 3 days without rain and look out.....

- Hugh Brown, Berks County

While it did not rain everyday this week, soils remained very wet and little was done in the field. Some producers did try to plant a little corn and transplant tobacco. A lot of alfalfa was cut early in the week thinking it just can't rain all week again, however, several inches of rain reduced quality almost to the mulch hay category.

- Bob Anderson, Lancaster County

Washed out this week, nearly 4 inches Tuesday night and Wednesday. Too wet to do anything. Some hay cut Monday, still out there. Orchard grass flowered, timothy heading, very few beans in and only half the corn is in the ground. Over 7 inches of rain the past 2 weeks. Getting tired of talking about rain.

- Andrew Frankenfield, Montgomery County

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending June 8, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
<i>Percent</i>			
Spring plowing	89	95	98
Corn, planted	74	88	93
Corn, emerged	58	74	83
Corn, height (inches)	4	8	7
Barley, yellow	22	82	77
Winter wheat, headed	75	97	95
Oats, emerged	97	91	95
Soybeans, planted	51	72	77
Soybeans, emerged	29	52	59
Tobacco, transplanted	18	69	72
Potatoes, planted	86	96	95
Alfalfa, 1 st cut	34	56	63
Timothy clover, 1 st cut	12	28	31

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending June 8, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Corn	1	9	32	42	16
Winter wheat	0	2	15	57	26
Oats	1	4	31	51	13
Soybeans	2	7	32	27	32
Alfalfa stand	0	2	17	54	27
T-Clover Stand	1	5	28	59	7
Quality of Hay	7	32	34	22	5
Pasture Conditions	1	3	21	51	24
Peaches	0	0	2	94	4
Apples	0	1	23	66	10

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